



Mitch O'Farrell <mitch.ofarrell@lacity.org>

Re: Our councilmembers need our support

1 message

Steven Whiddon <steven.whiddon@lacity.org>

Thu, Dec 12, 2013 at 3:11 PM

To: Kerry Morrison <Kerry@hollywoodbid.org>

Cc: Mitch O'Farrell <mitch.ofarrell@lacity.org>, Tony Arranaga <tony.arranaga@lacity.org>, Marisol Salguero <marisol.salguero@lacity.org>

Kerry,

WOW--aren't you efficient! Thank you so much for sending this out and for doing it quickly. I know you will keep us posted on the responses.

**Steven Whiddon**

Hollywood Field Deputy

Office of Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell

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steven.whiddon@lacity.orgConveniently located adjacent to the Metro Red Line.

On Thu, Dec 12, 2013 at 2:13 PM, Kerry Morrison <Kerry@hollywoodbid.org> wrote:

Friends,

Ever since Councilmembers Tom LaBonge and Mitch O'Farrell introduced a motion at City Council in September calling for the city departments to "report on efforts by other municipalities to address non-commercial feeding in the public rights of way," the WHFC has orchestrated a media firestorm decrying this effort.

Here is the motion

http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2013/13-1238_mot_9-17-13.pdf

Here is a support letter from Assemblymember Richard Bloom

http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2013/13-1238_misc_10-16-13.pdf

Here is the position of the Media District BID declaring the program to be a public nuisance

http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2013/13-1238_misc_10-16-2013.pdf

Further, what some of you may not realize, is that a subcommittee of Hollywood 4WRD worked for five months (from October 2012 to March 2013) to identify an alternative location for the foodline. We identified an 8,000 square foot parking lot, and had pledges to pay the rent for one year, and the founder of the WHFC rejected this off-the- street location. This part of the story has not been picked up by the media, and the reporting is extremely one-sided and critical of our elected officials.

<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2013/10/16/food-truck-that-feeds-homeless-could-be-forced-to-move-from-streets-of-hollywood/>

http://www.kcrw.com/news/programs/ww/ww131126feeding_the_homeless

(In this news program, Ted Landreth says "Tom Labonge has not worked with us." He has "singularly failed to be in touch with us." This is a bald-faced lie. This interview provides some insight into how intractable the leader of the WHFC is. Very much worth listening to.)

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/26/us/as-homeless-line-up-for-food-los-angeles-weighs-restrictions.html?_r=0

<http://la.curbed.com/tags/greater-west-hollywood-food-coalition>

I have been asked by the council offices if a group of community leaders and social service providers would be willing to sign a letter supporting the efforts of our council people to find a solution and to move this program off the public right of way. I have sent a draft of a letter to them to review, but I wanted to give you the heads up that I will be circling back to you. Please give me an indication as to whether you would be willing to sign something – I think it is important that we show that our council people have been supportive of programs and goals and housing complexes that work toward ending homelessness. It is unfair how they are being portrayed – and I don't think we should leave them hanging out on a limb.

And p.s., as if this isn't heating up enough, there is going to be a protest at the corner of Hwd and Vine this Saturday, organized by a feeding program from Skid Row, to support the West Hwd Food Coalition.

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=572330009514422&set=a.116214681792626.22621.108289485918479&type=1&theater>

Let me know your thoughts.

Kerry

Kerry Morrison

Exec. Director

Hollywood Property Owners Alliance

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